

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 10986

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 220772 (B) STATE 220773

1. AS INSTRUCTED, WE DISCUSSED IMPORTANT ISSUES TO BE TAKEN UP BY 31ST UNGA WITH DIRECTOR AND DUPUTY DIRECTOR MEA'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION (IO) DEPARTMENT. DIRECTOR LEFT FOR UNGA SEPTEMBER 20 AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR WILL ATTEND SECOND HALF OF SESSION. REACTION OF THESE OFFICIALS TO OUR REPRESENTATIONS ON THE VARIOUS ISSUES FOLLOWS.

2. SOUTHERN AFRICA: FMG HAS FOLLOWED CURRENT U.S. INITIATIVE CLOSELY. DEPUTY DIRECTOR VOLUNTEERED THAT AS NOW DRAFTED, COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ADDRESS TO UNGA CONTAINS FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT SETTLEMENT OF RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN PROBLEMS. EVEN IF INITIATIVE FAILED, HE SAID, CREDIT SHOULD BE GIVEN FOR TRYING.

3. WESTERN SAHARA: OUR POSITION WELCOMED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR WHO ADDED THAT THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN SAHARA OUGHT TO BE

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PERMITTED TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE. HE EXPRESSED SOME

DISMAY THAT TERRITORY HAD BEEN DIVIDED BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO.

4. ZIONISM/RACISM: FMG SUPPORTS UNGA DECISION TO DEFINE ZIONISM AS FORM OF RACISM BUT OFFICIALS INDICATED NIGERIA WILL CONTINUE OPPOSE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM UNGA OR UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

5. UNWRA FINANCING AND UN BUDGET: NIGERIA IS "NOT INCLINED" TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO UNWRA. WHILE FMG IS IN FAVOR OF HOLDING UN COSTS DOWN, NIGERIA WILL BE SELECTIVE IN APPLYING RESTRAINT. FOR EXAMPLE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAID INCREASED EXPENDITURES FOR UNDP PROGRAMS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED IN VIEW THEIR IMPORTANCE TO DEVELOPING WORLD.

6. INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE: NIGERIA ACCEPTS OUR POSITION THAT REGIONAL GROUP OF STATES CANNOT IMPOSE A SPECIAL REGIME ON HIGH SEAS, BUT FMG DOES NOT CONSIDER MILITARY BASES ON LAND SIMILARLY EXEMPT.

7. DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAID FMG "FED UP" WITH LACK OF PROGRESS IN REACHING AGREEMENT THIS AREA. NIGERIA BELIEVES THAT HOLDING OF SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL FOCUS ATTENTION ON THIS ISSUE AND PERHAPS FORCE SOME AGREEMENT. HIS CRITICISM DIRECTED AS BOTH SOVIETS AND U.S. DURING THIS CONCEPT OF NUCLEAR FREE ZONE FOR AFRICA, AN AGENDA ITEM SPONSORED BY FMG.

8. EXTERNAL EVALUATION PROGRAM: DEPUTY DIRECTOR APPEARED UNFAMILIAR WITH JOINT INSPECTION UNIT (JIU), BUT AGREED THAT INDEPENDENT EVALUATION MECHANISM DESIRABLE AND SEEMED INCLINED TO SUPPORT RENEWAL JIU MANDATE.

9. COMMENT: ON ZIONISM/RACISM AND KOREA (NIGERIA WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR THE PRO-DPRK RESOLUTION), WE AND THE FMG DISAGREE. WE CAN ALSO EXPECT NIGERIANS TO PUSH HARD ON COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS ("NIGERIA'S BAROODY," AMBASSADOR CLARK, WILL TAKE CHARGE OF THIS ITEM FOR NIGERIAN DELEGATION) AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES (AS SEPARATE FROM SECRETARY'S INITIATIVE). WE SHOULD ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT NIGERIANS WILL TAKE POSITIONS
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ON QUESTIONS OF DISARMAMENT AND INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE WHICH WILL NOT BE COMPLETELY COMPATIBLE WITH OUR STANCE. AND, WHILE NIGERIANS SUPPORT PRINCIPLE OF KEEPING UN COSTS DOWN, THEY WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT OPPOSE PROGRAMS WHICH THEY PERCEIVE TO BE OF DIRECT BENEFIT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
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